

Message Text

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12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 021015Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5581

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 7613

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PFOR LY EG

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM - SADAT'S VIEWS ON NORTHROP-PAGE AIR
DEFENSE SYSTEM FOR LIBYA

REF: A. STATE 182532 (TOSEC 080271)

B. SECTO 8111

1. UPON RECEIPT REFTEL A, I PREPARED A MESSAGE
SETTING FORTH MY VIEW THAT SADAT MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO
OPPOSE SALE OF NORTHROP-PAGE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM TO
LIBYA EVEN THOUGH HE AGREED IN JUNE, 1974 TO SUCH A
SALE. CIRCUMSTANCES OF JUNE, 1974 ARE DIFFERENT FROM
THOSE THAT NOW OBTAIN. RELATIONS BETWEEN SADAT AND
QADHAFI ARE CURRENTLY SO BAD THAT ANYTHING USG DOES,
DIRECTLY OR THROUGH APPROVED COMMERCIAL CONTRACT FOR ANY
KIND OF WEAPONRY FOR LIBYA, WILL BE VIEWED BY SADAT,
BY EGYPTIANS AND BY OTHER ARABS AS A USG SLAP AT SADAT.
I RECEIVED REFTEL B PRIOR TO SENDING MY MESSAGE AND
THEREFORE DROPPED IT.

2. I HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH FAHMY IN ALEXANDRIA
ABOUT THE MATTER AND SPOKE TO HIM ALONG LINES TALKING
POINTS SET FORTH PARA 7 REFTEL A. FAHMY RECALLED
SADAT HAD APPROVED SALE IN JUNE, 1974, BUT EXPRESSED
CONCERN THAT WE SHOULD NOW GO THROUGH WITH IT. HE
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HOPED THERE WAS SOME WAY OF CALLING IT OFF. HE WAS

SURE THIS WOULD ALSO BE SADAT'S VIEW, BUT UNDERTOOK TO CHECK.

3. FAHMY CALLED BACK AN HOUR LATER TO SAY HE HAD
DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH THE PRESIDENT. SADAT STRONGLY
HOPES THE ENTIRE SALE CAN BE "SCOTCHED COMPLETELY"
UNTIL SUCH TIME IN THE FUTURE AS QADHAFI BEHAVES BETTER.

4. COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT'S REACTION WAS PREDICTABLE.
EILTS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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